

In the Claims

Please amend claims 4, 5, 14, 15, 18 and 19 as follows.

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4. (AMENDED) A guide wire according to claim 1 wherein the core wire has a polymeric coating thereon which covers substantially the entire length of the core wire.

5. (AMENDED) A guide wire according to claim 1 wherein core wire has a tapered segment between the medial segment and the distal segment.

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14. (AMENDED) A guide wire according to claim 8 wherein the core wire is coated with PEBAX polyetherimide.

15. (AMENDED) A guide wire according to claim 8 wherein the core wire comprises polyetheretherketone, and the core wire is coated with polyetherimide.

18. (AMENDED) A guide wire according to claim 15 wherein the polyetherimide coating has a hydrophilic coating thereover.

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19. (AMENDED) A guide wire comprising a core wire having coupled distal, medial, and proximal segments, the core wire comprising multiple, non-metallic, randomly-disposed fibers and a binder resin, the binder resin being uniformly dispersed between the fibers so as to fill any void space therebetween.

Please cancel claims 22-24 without prejudice to filing of continuing applications to prosecute the subject matter thereof.